

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough review of the present application. As attached herein, claims 14-20 have been cancelled, based on the election of Species I. Also, as attached herewith, independent claim 12 has been amended, to recite that the basic body includes a first side and a second side positioned opposite to the first side, and that a first and second reinforcing element take a plate-shape form. Independent claim 12 has been further amended, to recite that a surface of the respective first and second reinforcing element is respectively arranged in a parallel alignment with and a distance from a surface of the respective first and second side of the basic body. Independent claims 22 and 24 were similarly amended. Support for these amendments may be found in paragraphs [0018] and [0037] of the Substitute Specification, for example. Additionally, new claims 26-28 were added, which recite that a working medium is incident on the first side of the basic body, such that a temperature of the first side is greater than a temperature of the second side. Support for new claims 26-28 may be found in paragraph [0037] of the Substitute Specification, for example. Additionally, new claim 29 has been added, which recites that the reinforcing elements are formed from an oxide-ceramic material having an Al_2O_3 proportion of at least 60% by weight. Support for new claim 29 may be found in paragraph [0016] of the Substitute Specification, for example. Additionally, new claim 30 has been added, which recites that the working medium incident on the first side of the basic body has a temperature in a range of 1200-1500 °C. Support for new claim 30 may be found in paragraph [0035] of the Substitute Specification, for example. Accordingly, no new matter is presented by these amendments.

Claims 12, 13 and 21-30 are currently pending and presented for examination. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the amendments attached herein and the following remarks.

Objection to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the Abstract, and contended that the term “The aim of the invention...” was objectionable and should be changed. The Abstract has been amended, to remove this language and to ensure that the Abstract has between 50 and 150 words. Accordingly, this objection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner objected to the disclosure, as failing to provide “a description of fig. 4a and 4b” (Office Action, p. 3). However, paragraph [0037] of the Substitute Specification describes that FIG. 4a illustrates that the plate-shaped reinforcing elements 30 take a cross lattice structure, and that FIG. 4b illustrates that the plate-shaped reinforcing elements 30 take a perforated lattice structure. Indeed, the specification does provide a description of FIGS. 4a and 4b. Accordingly, this objection should be withdrawn.

Rejections of Claim 12 under Section 102:

The Examiner rejected independent claim 12 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Hofmann. As discussed above, independent claim 12 has been amended, to recite that the basic body includes a first side and a second side positioned opposite to the first side, and that a first and second reinforcing element take a plate-shape form. Independent claim 12 has been further amended, to recite that a surface of the respective first and second reinforcing element is respectively arranged in a parallel alignment with and a distance from a surface of the respective first and second side of the basic body. Neither Hofmann, Holden, Sasaki, or DeCorso, alone or in combination, disclose these recitations and accordingly, amended independent claim 12 is patentable.

Hofmann discloses a heat-shield brick 1 (see FIG. 1) with a hot side 3 and a wall side 5 opposite to the hot side 3 [0053]. A peripheral side 7 of the brick 1 includes a peripheral surface 9 and a tension element 11 is positioned over the peripheral surface 9, to pre-stress the peripheral surface 9 with normal forces S1,S2,S3,S4, to reduce a risk of cracking in the hot side 3 or wall side 5, from such normal forces (relative to the peripheral surface 9) [0055]. Thus, the hot side 3 and wall side 5 are one continuous brick 1 (see FIGS. 8-9), while the tension element 11 merely is positioned around a peripheral surface 9 of the brick 1.

The Examiner contended that the tension element 11 of Hofmann is the recited basic body, and that the hot side 3 of Hofmann is the recited reinforcing element, as in independent claim 12. However, as discussed above, independent claim 12 has been amended, to recite that the basic body includes a first side and a second side positioned opposite to the first side, and that a first and second reinforcing element take a plate-shape form. Additionally, independent claim 12 has been amended, to recite that a surface of the respective first and second reinforcing element is respectively arranged in a parallel alignment with and a distance from a surface of the respective first and second side of the basic body. Hofmann fails to disclose this arrangement, as the surfaces of the hot side 3 and the wall side 5 are not arranged in a parallel alignment with and a distance from a surface of a respective first and second side of the tension element 11. Instead, the tension element 11 is a circular cross-sectional element which passes around the periphery between the hot side 3 and the wall side 5 (FIGS. 8-9), and thus the tension element 11 does not include a first side and a second side positioned opposite to the first side which are arranged in a parallel alignment with and a distance from the surfaces of the hot side 3 and the wall side 5.

Accordingly, amended independent claim 12 is patentable. Its dependent claims, which recite yet further distinguishing features, are also patentable, and require no further discussion herein.

Rejections of Claims 13 and 21-25 under Section 103:

The Examiner rejected claims 13 and 21-25 under 35 USC §103(a). As discussed above, amended independent claim 12 is patentable. Independent claims 22 and 24 were similarly amended as independent claim 12. The arguments set forth above, with regard to amended independent claim 12, are repeated herein with respect to amended independent claims 22 and 24. Accordingly, amended independent claims 12, 22 and 24 are patentable. Their dependent claims, which recite yet further distinguishing features, are also patentable, and require no further discussion herein.

New Claims 26-30

New claims 26-30 have been presented. As discussed above, amended independent claims 12, 22 and 24 are patentable. New claims 26-30, which recite yet further distinguishing features, are also patentable, and require no further discussion herein.

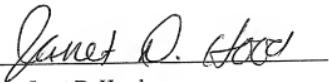
Conclusion

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner timely pass the application to allowance. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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